

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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The Soviet Center in Sofia

1. Headquarters of the large Soviet network in Bulgaria and its numerous services are located in a 2-story building on Khadzhi Dimo Street in Sofia. This is a small side street near the Ruski Pametnik, the Red Cross Hospital, and Zavod 12. The building is of massive brick and concrete construction and the presence of windows at certain places along the ground level may indicate the existence of a basement. All first floor windows are fitted with bars, but only a portion of the second floor windows have bars.
2. Soviets dressed in civilian clothes and a few in uniform have been observed entering the building. A Bulgarian militiaman guards the entrance to the yard, and a civilian guard is posted at the entrance to the building. The latter speaks Bulgarian with a Russian accent.
3. There is very little traffic on this street. The few cars which have been observed repeatedly near the building included ZIS and ZIM models, which may indicate high rank for certain personnel at the center.

Soviet Personnel in Bulgaria

4. On 29 January 1954, a certain Sukhodolski arrived in Sofia from the USSR. He was met at the airport by numerous officials of the Ministry of Interior, among them Deputy Minister Kumbiliev. The head of the Militia in Sofia, Stoyanov (fmu), was also present in civilian clothes. Sukhodolski's baggage was not examined.
5. Soviet specialists in Bulgaria, reportedly about 3,000, are rated either as advisors or experts. All specialists deal with the Soviet embassy through a special liaison office. Specialists rated as advisors hold diplomatic passports.
6. M. F. Bodrov, former Soviet ambassador to Sofia, stated that more than 350 men were employed by the embassy, which figure probably included all who held diplomatic passports. The recent increase in movements of Soviets in and out of Bulgaria may indicate that the USSR is replacing its personnel there.

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